

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 STR-02 STRE-00 AGRE-00 EB-04
IO-06 INR-05 INRE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 OES-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-01 SP-02 /046 W
-----009777 291528Z /50

O 291505Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6867
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 10416

LIMDIS

USEEC

DEPT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO SECRETARY BERGLAND AND STR
AMBASSADORS STRAUSS AND WOOLF. GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR
MCDONALD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, MTN, EEC
SUBJECT: US-EC AGRICULTURAL BILATERAL MAY 30-31

REF: STATE 134192

1. GUNDELACH BROKE OUT OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS WORKING
LUNCH ON FISHERIES PROBLEM TO SEE ME MAY 29. HE AGREED
THAT SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WHICH I CONVEYED TO HIM WAS
ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT STATUS OF
AGRICULTURAL TALKS WITH CAVEAT THAT WHILE WE MIGHT DESCRIBE
OUR POSITION ON DAIRY AS FORTHCOMING, HE DID NOT CONSIDER
THAT WE HAD MOVED SIGNIFICANTLY.

2. HE ASKED ME TO ASSURE ALL THOSE WITH WHOM HE HAD TALKED
IN WASHINGTON AND COPENHAGEN THAT HE STOOD BY WHAT HE HAD
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SAID THERE AND THAT HE WAS WORKING AT IT. HE REPEATEDLY
DESCRIBED THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AS "DAMN DIFFICULT." HE
ALSO REMARKED THAT HE HOPED HE WAS GIVEN CREDIT IN WASHING-
TON FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE WITH 1978 PRICE POLICY AND
MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE POLICY WITH HIS MINISTERS. THAT
ALSO WAS "DAMN DIFFICULT" AND HE WAS NOT VERY POPULAR
THESE DAYS WITH HIS MINISTERS, BUT THOSE EFFORTS WERE

NECESSARY FOR THE LONG RUN COMPATABILITY OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE WITH WORLD AGRICULTURE AND AS A PRELUDE TO WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO DO IN THE MTN. HE AGREED TIME WAS SHORT BUT ADDED THAT DENMAN AND RABOT HAD NOW BEGUN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS IN THE 113 COMMITTEE.

3. I COMMENTED THAT WE ALL KNEW AGRICULTURE WAS DAMN DIFFICULT AND ADDED A PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT A NUMBER OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE GROUPS ARE TELLING ME THAT SECRETARY BERGLAND AND AMBASSADOR STRAUSS HAVE MADE A MAJOR POLITICAL BLUNDER AND THAT THEY WILL PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER THEM WHEN THE MTN RESULTS GO TO CONGRESS.

4. CONCERNING THE CATHEDRAL PAPER (WHICH INCIDENTALLY I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING A COPY OF), GUNDELACH CHARACTERIZED IT AS FIRST CLASS. DENMAN AND RABOT HAD BEEN TALKING TO THE MEMBER STATES ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHY LYING BEHIND IT AND THE IDEAS IN IT BUT THEY HAD NOT LET THE PAPER OUT OF THE COMMISSION AND WITHIN THE COMMISSION ONLY A FEW SENIOR OFFICIALS WERE IN THE ACT. HE THOUGHT RABOT MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE AMBASSADOR MCDONALD SOME TENTATIVE REACTIONS DURING THE MAY 30-31 MEETING BUT IT WOULD BE TOO EARLY TO GO VERY FAR HE THOUGHT. HE SAID THAT AS I KNEW POSSIBILITIES CONCERNING RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORT SUBSIDIES WERE CRUCIALLY LINKED TO PROGRESS ON THE CATHEDRAL PAPER. I DID NOT TELL HIM I HADN'T KNOWN THAT BEFORE.
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5. CONCERNING GRAINS, GUNDELACH TOLD ME THAT THE BRITISH HAD ATTACKED HIM FOR GOING BEYOND THE COMMUNITY MANDATE ON WHEAT AND ADOPTING A PRO-AMERICAN POLICY. THE BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD EVEN COMPLAINED TO HIS FOREIGN MINISTER COLLEAGUES AT THEIR INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER IN DENMARK TEN DAYS AGO. IN THE OTHER DIRECTION, THE FRENCH AGRICULTURE MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT HE HAD SOLD OUT THE COMMUNITY POSITION ON FEED GRAINS. AS FAR AS MARKET ACCESS OR "UTILIZATION MEASURES" GO, HE HAD EXPLAINED AT COPENHAGEN THAT HE COULD SEE NO WAY TO EXPAND COMMUNITY USE OF AMERICAN FEED GRAINS IN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH HE IS TRYING TO REDUCE SURPLUS MEAT PRODUCTION IN EUROPE. HE STILL HAD NO ANSWER TO THIS LITTLE QUESTION AND HE STILL SAW LITTLE HOPE FOR PROGRESS HERE. HE NOTED WHAT I HAD TO SAY ABOUT BINDING THE INDUSTRIAL CORN LEVY BUT SAID OUR FEED GRAIN MARKET WAS PREDOMINANTLY FOR LIVESTOCK AND THERE WAS NOT MUCH INDUSTRIAL CORN. (THIS COULD MEAN THAT SOMETHING COULD HAPPEN ALTHOUGH THE PROBLEM IS SMALL OR IT COULD MEAN "FORGET IT" -- ONLY TIME WILL TELL.)

6. CONCERNING SPECIFIC US PRODUCT REQUESTS, GUNDELACH SAID HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH RABOT AND URGE HIM TO

START TALKING TO MCDONALD ABOUT SPECIFIC LIMITED CONCESSIONS THAT MIGHT BE MADE, BEARING IN MIND TECHNICAL POSSIBILITIES FOR ENLARGED SEASONAL WINDOWS, ETC.

7. FINALLY, GUNDELACH LAMENTED THAT PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING A POSITION WITHIN THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY HAFERKAMP'S EXTENSIVE TRAVELS AND GENERAL PREOCCUPATION WITH OTHER ISSUES. UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, THE COMMISSION ITSELF IS NOT EVEN MEETING THIS WEEK WHEN HE HAD HOPED TO PUT SOME OF THESE MATTERS BEFORE HIS COLLEAGUES. NEVER-

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6868

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 10416

LIMDIS

THELESS, HE REITERATED HE WOULD AGAIN URGE RABOT TO BE AS CONSTRUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE AT THE MAY 30-31 MEETING AND TO CONTINUE THE SOFTENING-UP PROCESS WITH THE MEMBER STATES.
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